

# IN FOCUS

*The Official Publication of the Jamaican Canadian Association*

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**February 2006 Issue**

## **“BLACK HISTORY’S NEXT GENERATION .... BORN TO FLY”**

*What can one expect from a boy who was born in Spanish Town, St. Catherine; attended Rock River All Age School in Clarendon then immigrated to Toronto, Canada at age four? Many might say, ‘not much’. Yet, others might say, ‘with so many opportunities, the sky is the limit’. Let’s meet such a boy and find out!*

Meet Damar Lennox Xavier Walker – with a name like that who would not want to meet him! Damar does not remember having any transitional issues when he first arrived in Canada. His original memories of Jamaica are walking with his Mom to school, taking a taxi to May Pen and going to the beach.



In Toronto he attended a number of schools – Gulf Stream Elementary for Kindergarten and Grades four and five. Claireville Junior School for Grades one and two, John D. Parker for Grade 3; then Humber Summit Middle School from Grades six to eight and finally Mississauga’s Meadowvale Secondary from grade 9 to OAC.

Damar remembers always wanting to fly a plane. As he got more mature, he focused in on learning all he could about aviation. At Humber Summit he made a conscious decision to focus on subjects that would allow him to do aviation. Damar explains that for students who are interested in aviation, they need at least six OACs with the ‘hard’ requirements being English, three mathematics, with Calculus being required and any two of Finite math’s, algebra and geometry. Physics is strongly recommended and having high grades in the other subjects gives applicants a greater chance at being accepted.

Today, at twenty-one years of age, Damar is the only black male (or black person) enrolled in his year, (“there is one in the year below me and possibly two in first year”) majoring in the Flight Stream of the University of Western Ontario’s Commercial Aviation Management Program – ‘Bachelor of Administrative and Commercial Studies’. There is a change of name underway for this program; and once approved (later this year) by the university’s senate, it will become the “Bachelor of Management and Organizational Studies”. Though the content of the degree itself will remain unchanged, they feel that the new name will better reflect the education that it offers. This program supports Damar’s vision of eventually becoming involved in the entrepreneurial area of Aviation.

Along with what he is now doing, Damar states, “I also hold my Private Pilot’s License and I am currently working on my night rating and Commercial Pilot’s License. In my fourth year, I will be working on my multi-engine rating as well as my multi-engine IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) rating.

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## IN FOCUS

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## Editorial

**Monday, February 6, 2006 saw the return of a true February winter's day, after the warmest January on record. High winds whipped through trees and buildings sang new songs. While nature was having its own way, Canada was welcoming its newest prime minister, Conservative leader Stephen Harper. Mr. Harper holds the position of being Canada's 22nd Prime Minister.**

With just over 65% of Canadians exercising their civil duty and heading to the polls on Monday, January 23, 2005, Mr. Harper was given a minority mandate - one to restore accountability to the Federal government, and the respect of the nation for the highest seat of government.

The nation is demanding that all elected members work in the best interest of the nation to bring about a cohesive parliament. The nation has no desire to be faced with another election considering it has just been through two elections in less than two years. Two elections in less than two years should not be happening in a 'first world' country; a country not at war and one that prides itself on democracy. Despite being a minority government, it has been democratically elected and should serve the electors in like fashion.

The nation and in particular, the marginalized members of the nation wait with bated breath to see what plans the government will put in place for the communities that have been simply ignored for the last twelve years. The marginalized members of the Black community particularly want to see what plans

the government has for supporting school boards to put in place workable plans for decreasing the school drop out rate as well as what support will be given to employers and community groups to initiate job training programs to help the underemployed, unemployed and the new immigrants who were convinced that they were coming to a job paradise when they were encouraged to leave their home countries on academic landed immigrant status visas.

It is high time that specialist doctors, special education teachers among others be given the opportunity to find work in their related fields and not be forced to drive taxicabs or flip burgers simply to put food on the table and pay the rent. With no MPs from the Black community to at least try to keep the Prime Minister and his party honest, it begs to reason what minority issues will ever be put on the table. However, it is important that Mr. Harper and his caucus be given a fair opportunity to prove to this nation that his mandate is meant to work for all and to the benefit of all. We therefore await his first throne speech and look forward to positive changes for all members of the society.

On another note: Once again the world has lost another world leader and above all classic human being. Coretta Scott-King, the 'first lady' of the civil rights movement passed away on Tuesday, January 31, 2006. The world must thank Mrs. King for her poised determination in continuing the dream that was started by her and her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that gave blacks rights they would never otherwise have had. Memories of her walking lock step with MLK Jr. are forever burned into our memories and we are forever grateful to them. Thank you and Rest In Peace Mrs. King!!!!



Coretta Scott-King



# President's Report



Once again as African Canadians and Canadians, in general, commemorate Black History Month as a people, the 400-year history of our presence in Canada has contributed significantly to the building of this nation. Consequently, it is with no exaggeration when we say, that our history

must be thoroughly and accurately integrated in the annals of this country; incorporated into school curricula across this country and every resident of this country, regardless of race, ethnicity, age, religion, must learn, know and understand the substantive role and impact of African Canadians in the formation of this great nation.

Today, we continue to make history as a community in contributing to the evolving and changing social fabric of Canadian society. Here at the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) and throughout our 43-year history, we have been doing our part to contribute to the collective work of African Canadians to positively impact Canada's growth as a powerful nation. Our contributions cover the spectrum from advocating and influencing policy and legislative changes in areas such as immigration, policing, human rights, employment, anti-racism to bringing the community together in numerous celebratory events. We have and continue to organize gatherings to celebrate our history as a community and pay tribute to our pioneers.

In true form, JCA continue to organize gatherings for 2006 through a number of events. Our series of events started with a community church service which received tremendous response and attendance from churches, the community and some public officials including Member of Provincial Parliament, Bas Balkissoon; City Councillor Jane Pitfield; City Councillor, Suzanne Hall; Toronto Police Services Chief Bill Blair and Deputy Police Chief Keith Forde; Ontario Human Rights Commissioner, Barbara Hall. Mr. Derrick Burrowes attended on behalf of the acting Counsel General of Jamaica, Mr. Dale Jones. Ms. Heather Headley Vice Consul of the Barbados Consulate was also in attendance. The Sermon was delivered by Reverend Michael Blair.

Our staple event for Black History Month is the, "Boonoonoonos", which brought the community together in true Jamaican culture and vibes to savour, with food and artistic performances, on the contributions of African Canadians. Our talented artists – Kardinal Official, Blacka Ellis, Marcia Brown, Naggo Morris, among many others, reminded us of our heritage, rich culture and our significant contributions as a powerful social-cultural entity in this Canadian mosaic.

The month was wrapped up with a celebration dedicated to our children, themed "Positive Minds, Positive Results". The energy, excitement and keen minds of students from the neighbouring schools were treated to a morning of knowledge and positive messages imparted through various educational formats. The students were treated to an uplifting message from guest speaker, Steven Conville, a vice-president with one of Canada's leading financial institutions.



*continued on page 5...*

## President's Report... continued

While the official acknowledgement of African History takes place during the month of February, at the JCA, it is an on-going part of our culture and work. JCA continues to provide African history education throughout the year as part of our Saturday Morning Tutorial Program which operates throughout the school year at the JCA Community Centre.

Beyond the celebratory and festive events focusing on the past, however, we must examine the ways in which as a community, African Canadians are making history today and the legacy we will leave for the future generations. In the tradition of our ancestors we must make the kind of history that moves us collectively forward. How are we making history that will transform and elevate our community from a state of vulnerability and socio-economic isolation to one that is characterized by self-sufficiency and sustainable development? As we participate in the various celebratory events planned for Black History month, we need to bear in mind, this is a time when we have a captive audience in the broader public. Therefore, let us seize the opportunity to make further inroads, to dialogue and forge substantive changes on the issues that have implications for the quality of life for African Canadians.

The formation of the Coalition of African Canadian organizations (a.k.a. The Coalition) has spawned an increased level of community action and activism that is echoing across the country. The Coalition has embarked on an agenda that is forging dialogue on gun violence, its root causes and the impact on the African Canadian community. It is forging an agenda that is advocating for social change to address the powerful barriers of structural racism and socio-economic inequalities. These factors perpetuate the marginalization and exclusion faced by our community and its members.

As we reflect positively on our foreparents, it is important also that we contemplate on the future we are preparing for our children. What is the legacy that we will leave our children, the future of the race? We have a duty to collectively build on the achievements of our pioneers, our trailblazers, to move our community and our race forward and upward. The challenges we face as a community is by no means over. Let us be reminded of the challenge issued to us by The Right Excellent Marcus Mosiah Garvey, "Up! Up! You mighty race, you can accomplish what you will!"

**Sandra Carnegie-Douglas, President**  
president@jcassoc.org

## JCA Quarterly Membership Meeting

**Sunday  
February 26th, 2005**

**JCA CENTRE, 995 Arrow Road, Toronto**



# Executive Director's Report

The past few months at the Jamaican Canadian Association have been busy, eventful, inspirational and challenging, (a positive sense of challenge). It is my view that we are well on our way to infusing new energy and vital commitment to the mission of the Jamaican Canadian Association and to our community at large. While we are attending closely to the internal office structure and those who carry out the day-to-day operations of JCA, we do have an extensive external agenda underway. As we are 'big picture' thinkers, I might add, there is a much larger external agenda for the coming year – including anticipated spin off from the work of the Coalition of African Canadian Organizations, and the tireless efforts of our Board and staff to strengthen the Association.

My focus for the upcoming year is to seek new avenues for revenue and better understand and respond to the needs of our constituents. This means new programs to support the health and development of the African Canadian communities, and in particular, the creation of new opportunities focusing on our children and youth.

We have been receiving suggestions from various members regarding apprenticeship and trades for our youth program. This is an area that we are and will continue to pursue over the next fiscal year to ensure that our youth are provided with access and support towards meaning-

ful employment. We currently refer interested youth to The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), a program that offers a wide range of apprenticeship opportunities for students in Grade 11. Students have the opportunity to work towards a career in a skilled trade as a registered apprentice, and eventually a certified skilled worker while they complete their Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

We have submitted proposals to our funders for funding to continue our work for the next 1-2 years. We are anticipating success in our requests as plans are underway to implement changes that will further enhance our programs. Specifically, we will be introducing support groups to our entire program stream as we begin to encourage everyone to unite and to once again become "our brother's keeper." What you will see in the near future, is above and beyond our individual and group counseling sessions. We will bring together groups of people who share the same or similar experiences to support each other towards making positive changes in their lives.

We are exploring a new program to replace the ISAP program that we lost a year ago. This program will be called JCA's Settlement, Adaptation and Integration Program. It is an educational and supportive program designed by the Jamaican Canadian Association to provide outreach, education and support services to

new immigrants from the Caribbean/African communities. We are scheduled to implement this program in April, 2006.

Fundraising is an on-going and necessary initiative at the JCA. In our last newsletter I asked you to look out for information in the mail and to contribute to our direct mail campaign. It is coming so continue to look for your package and I am once again reminding you to support these efforts as they are vital to the survival of our services to the community.

We are looking forward to a successful ending to the 2005-2006 fiscal year and to the successes to come in 2006-2007.

For more information on the programs and services of the JCA please contact In Take worker 416-746-5772 ext. 230.



**Melody Brown,**  
*Executive Director*

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual JCA High School Career Expo & Debate Challenge *"Expand your Mind, Expand your Choices"*

**Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup> 2006  
9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**At the  
Jamaican Canadian Association  
995 Arrow Rd  
North York, Toronto**



**Over 20 booths exhibiting careers  
in Medicine, Law, Police, Media,  
Business, and much more**

**YMCA Employment opportunities, programs, and services**

### Debate Challenge Overview

**4 SCHOOLS  
+  
3 TOPICS  
+  
3 ROUNDS**

### **THE JCA YAC'S HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE CHALLENGE!**

- ✓ Network with peers from other schools!
- ✓ Gain information about interesting topics!
- ✓ Challenge your thinking!
- ✓ Have a whole lot of fun!

**SEE YOU THERE!**

Brought to you by the Jamaican Canadian Association Youth Affairs Committee  
*"Out of Many; One People"*



# Membership Services



On behalf of the Membership Services Committee let me wish all members, family and friends a healthy and prosperous 2006.

The year 2005 was a very interesting one. It was interesting in our nation, in our community and around JCA. Some of our members lost loved ones, friends and acquaintances. As an organization we extend our condolences to each one and share their losses. We must also continue to remember and pray for those who are sick.

**The Annual Children's Party:** The party was a success. We were able to give out nearly 300 toys. I am most pleased that no child went away from the JCA on that day without a toy. The children were all fed with pizza donated by Pizza Hut and Pizza Nova, with juice from McDonald's Restaurant, who also donated over 300 coupons for French fries.

**Membership Fees:** There are still many members who have not yet paid their 2005 membership fees. These dues should have been paid by the 31st of March, 2005, with this year's membership fees to be paid by the 31st of March 2006. It is important that these dues are paid as soon as possible. Our Constitution/By-law clearly states that to be able to vote in any decision making of the organization one must be an active member, meaning paid in full. March 31st is the end of our financial year and all dues should be paid by then.

The February quarterly meeting will be the last one before our Annual General Meeting.

**Membership:** I am very pleased with the numerous enquiries that are being received towards becoming a member of JCA and the number of new members we have received so far. However, much more work needs to be done to increase our membership base. Again, I am asking all members to help in this area. If each of us were to bring one new member in the organization, it would be a great achievement. Please remember our membership is the core of our organization. The services that are being provided by the JCA to members are financed by membership dues. As some of our members reach the golden age and join the senior's club, our income is decreased.

It has been six months now since I became the Chair of the Membership Services Committee and I am very thankful and appreciative of the advice and support I have received from my colleagues on the Board and the members at large.

The Committee is in the process of planning several events for the year 2006. Members will be informed over the coming months.

Hoping to see each and everyone of you at our next quarterly meeting which will be held on Sunday, February 26, 2006.

**Anton Squire, Chair**  
JCA Membership Services



# WOMEN'S SPACE

## Meet The Women's Committee Chair Camille Hannays-King



Camille obtained a B.A. from Concordia University, a M.Ed. from the University of Toronto in Counselling Psychology, a Graduate Certificate from OISE and is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Counselling Psychology at the University of Toronto. Camille is a Certified Counsellor through the Canadian Counselling Association (CCA), and a member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapist (AAMFT). Camille is a qualified True Colors facilitator, and Life Skills coach. In addition, Camille has obtained numerous continuing education certificates, which reflects her philosophy that education never ends.

Camille was appointed to the Toronto Star Community Editorial Board in September, 2005, and is the past vice-chair of the Academic Council at Humber College and a volunteer with the Women's Support Network in York Region.

Camille enjoys writing and poetry and published work has appeared in professional newsletters and journals. Camille enjoys dancing and as a young woman, performed for several years with the Usafiri dance company in Montreal and Toronto. She is excited about her involvement in the JCA, and is looking forward to a lasting and productive relationship. And so are we!

## Remembering Jamaica

By Yvonne Davidson

*As I think of the hills and the clear blue sea  
Memories of Jamaica rush back to me  
As I think of the rivers and fertile earth  
I remember Jamaica, the land of my birth.*

*I relive, in my mind, a distant past  
And my heart laments the times I've lost  
I think of a time and a place I feel  
Gone but etched in memories so real.*

*I long to return to a simpler way  
In that sunshine land I used to play  
And the almost primitive ways and means  
These are the things that fill my dreams.*

*The beaches, the mountains, a caressing breeze  
Cane fields, banana and coconut trees  
Long and winding country roads  
And country buses with heavy loads.*

*The handcart man, selling his wares  
The Jolly bus and penny-ha-penny bus fare  
A fudgeman riding to and fro  
Shouting Icicle, Ice-cream Cake and Choca-mo.*

*The market stalls filled with fruit  
The laughter, the innocence of my youth  
Things that I miss and long for so  
Things that remind me of long ago.*

*At nights I recall the star filled sky  
And Peenie Wallie's fluttering by  
In whispered tones we'd spend the night  
Telling Duppy stories that filled with fright.*

*On a windy day the kites would soar  
While angry waves lashed at the shore  
Swaying trees in the howling wind  
God how much I miss these things.*

*The way the rain, slowed everything down  
The earthy smell as it hit the ground  
Refreshing the land and watering crops  
The exciting clangor on the zinc roof tops.*

*Oh Jamaica I miss your ways  
I miss your climate and sunny days  
In a foreign land where I've come to rest  
Spurned on by an economic quest.*

*Though no turning back, on this traveled way  
For you my homeland, I'll always pray  
My memories of you will never depart  
Jamaica, Jamaica the beat of my heart*

- Anonymous



# For The Brothers

## JAMAICAN IMMIGRANTS AND THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE PART I

**Joel Augustus Rogers (1880-1966)**

There is something in us Jamaicans that propel us into the limelight wherever we reside. Injustice bothers us, and in many instances, irrespective of the cost, we have a strong tendency to fight against it. This series of short articles are intended to introduce some Jamaican nationals who contributed significantly to the Harlem Renaissance between 1917 to 1930.

The Harlem Renaissance started immediately after World War I. Approximately 387,000 Black soldiers participated in the war. They went to fight for the preservation of democracy. Ironically, on their return they discovered that the democracy they were fighting for, did not apply to them in their own country. They could not find jobs, proper housing or most of the basic survival necessities of life.

A protest movement against the treatment of the returning Black soldiers was initiated by the Black press, and especially the Black presses in the northern states. Foremost among these was Marcus Garvey's "The Negro World". The Negro World became one of the most widely read mediums for the distribution of the writings of numerous Black activist groups residing in Harlem. One of the regular contributors was J. A. Rogers.

The war had created a shortage of labour, and Black immigrants from the rural south and the Caribbean flocked to the industrial north to work in industries. It is said that approximately twenty-five percent of the population of Harlem was Caribbean immigrants.

### Who Was J. A. Rogers?

J. A. Rogers was born in Negril, Jamaica in 1880. He left Jamaica in 1917, and at first lived in Chicago before finally settling in Harlem. He worked as a Pullman porter. One of his aims was to visit as many cities as possible, and to use his spare time to do research in as many libraries as possible. The story is told that as a Black person, he could not get into most libraries. In order to surmount this barrier, he would pay a white Pullman conductor to take out books for him.

"Rogers, I believe you are a damn fool to throw away your money that way. But if you want to throw away your money that way, I am willing to cooperate," said the white porter. (Prof. John Jackson).

Rogers, like his contemporary and friend Marcus Garvey was basically self-taught. Rogers taught himself French, German, Spanish and Italian. He could be aptly described as a renaissance

man. He never completed high school, yet, he was regarded as one of the foremost historians and anthropologists of his time and lectured in these fields at such institutions as the University of Chicago and Sorbonne in Paris. In 1931 he was invited to address the International Congress of Anthropology. Rogers' anthropological works took him to sixty different countries.

J. A. Rogers spent over fifty years writing, researching, and publishing the contributions and interconnection of Black people to world history. Most of his works were published through his newspaper columns and other publications. Rogers single handedly made Black history a popular academic subject in the United States.

Rogers was a master of primary research especially into the history of the Black race. His thesis dealing with miscegenation, and the Black and white races in particular is polemical. Rogers found it almost impossible to get any of the large publishing houses to publish his works because of their polemical nature, so he published them himself.

One of Rogers' aims in life was to prove that the Black Man was not inferior to any other race. "Rogers became the most interesting and dynamic Black historian and social commentator of modern times." He wrote and published over sixteen books and pamphlets and countless articles. Among his most popular books are: *Nature Knows No Color Line*, *Africa's Gift to America*, *World's Great Men of Color*, (Three Volumes), *Sex and Race* and *From Superman to Man*.

Rogers was one of the prominent contributors of the Harlem Renaissance. He was a great thinker. Although he was never an official member of Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association (U.N.I.A.), he wrote regularly for the U.N.I.A. weekly newspaper, the *Negro World*.

Many members of the Black intelligentsia of his day criticized him because of his lack of formal education. Among these critics was W.E.B. Du Bois. Du Bois, grudgingly had this to say of Rogers. "I have learned so much from J.A. Rogers. Rogers is an untrained American Negro writer who has done his work under great difficulty, without funds and much personal sacrifice, but no man living has revealed as many important facts about the Negro race as has Rogers."

— Dr. Vincent G. Conville

# Youth for Tomorrow

**BLACK HISTORY'S NEXT GENERATION:**

## Counting her way to the Top

**One + one = two...two x two = four...**...simple enough? Well, if you can perform basic calculations such as these, you can be well on your way to a career in accounting. Just ask Marie Walton. A successful young woman who works as an accountant. She reveals that the biggest misconception about accounting is that one must be a mathematical genius. Contrary to popular belief, Marie stresses that accounting isn't just filled with numerical equations. It is more thinking-based than figures-based. Essentially, one should possess basic numerical knowledge and the ability to interpret and calculate numbers.

Since her third year in high school, Marie had her mind set on becoming an accountant. Despite the demands of both studying and working, including the pressures of socializing with friends, she stayed focused on her goal and remained driven by the support of her parents. She knew that by prioritizing and working hard, it would all pay off in the end.

It surely has! In 2001, Marie graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelors of Commerce degree. Since then, it's been full-steam ahead. Right out of university she was hired by KPMG. While there, she worked in the Information, Communication and Entertainment audit division for several years. Reflecting on her first few years in the field, Marie notes that the face of accounting is changing. Previously dominated by older white men, the landscape has increasingly become more racially diverse and inclusive of women.

Currently, Marie works for Siemens, a company that prides itself on technological innovation and research and development on a global level. Marie first worked in their corporate finance department consolidating accounts and within a year was promoted as an Assistant Controller for the corporate departments. On any given day, Marie's hectic schedule involves attending to issues such as billing problems, general operations, internal control and accounting. She is also responsible for the preparation of analyses and presentations. In addition, she mentors her

staff to ensure that their personal development goals are met. Marie thoroughly enjoys her work which provides her with exposure to business operations at an international level. Her work also includes regular travel to conferences to destinations like New York and Germany.

In her spare time, Marie loves to travel. In the last few years she's been to New Orleans, Dominican Republic, California and her favorite place, New York. She also enjoys tennis, rollerblading, working out and is a die-hard basketball fan.

While Marie aspires to attain a position at the level of Director or Vice-President, ultimately, she wants to operate her own company to combine her business and fashion sense. Marie encourages young people to strongly consider accounting as a viable career option. It is filled with limitless opportunities in a spectrum of areas, such as forensics, taxes, mergers and acquisitions. Accountants are always in high demand because every sector has financial needs to be cared for. She recommends taking courses in accounting, business, ethics and marketing to best prepare for the field. To be successful in the industry, Marie highlights the need to be persistent, marketable and flexible but most importantly, the need to network! It's evident why Marie has been successful. She firmly lives by the motto: you can do anything you set your mind to.



— Natasha Blake



# Guest Writer Column

## A Celebration of our history

*"It is also important that we remember that History is neither Black nor White but simply the true history."*

Why Black History Month? A civilization or a people who do not know their past can so easily be lost in the present. History is crucial. We've heard the old sayings "A people without a history are a people without a future." We have a rich and diverse history.

Black history Month is about acknowledging the contributions of black people to society, to this world, to this civilization. One of the most damaging effects of the middle passage and the Black Diaspora has been the obliteration of our history from text and everyday knowledge.

Here in Canada, we are too often portrayed as being new to this country, yet in 1605 Mathew Da Costa a black man landed on Canadian shores. He arrived with Samuel de Champlain the "father of Canada." Da Costa acted as an interpreter for the French among the Mi'Kmaq natives. Da Costa may have been in Canada earlier since Mi'Kmaq was not a European or African Language. Black people have been arriving in this country for hundreds of years. Yet we retain our newcomers' status and are seen on the periphery of this society. Our contributions remain outside mainstream history and the educational systems.

Black Canadian history is textured with Caribbean heritage, American heritage, and our relationship with the aboriginal communities. Our history cannot be abstracted from our relationship with the Church, the church's role with slavery, the Underground Railroad and the civil

rights movement. Spirituality and religious expression have always been at the core of individual and community life for people of African descent, regardless of faith, the church has been the heart of black communities. From Marcus Garvey to Martin Luther King the church has played a pivotal role for social progress and organization among our people

We must never forget that our history did not begin with the Middle passage or with conversion to Christianity. Our ancestors were spiritual, they were people of faith. Enslavement robbed them of the right to practice their African religious and cultural traditions and initially denied them the right to practice Christianity. But our ancestors found ways of circumventing restricting and brutal ways of keeping them from faith and from God.

I don't know about you, but each time I drive or fly to the US, I try to imagine what it would have been like to walk to Canada, and I am completely blown away. The tenacity, the strength of our people is beyond me.

As we celebrate Black History month today and everyday of the year, it is important that we teach our children that there is nothing shameful about our history. We must teach them to appreciate all of our experience and instill pride in our accomplishment and contributions to this society, this civilization. It is also important that we remember that History is neither Black nor White but simply the true history.

## .... BORN TO FLY *continued*

Damar advises that along with the OACs, young people interested in Aviation must possess a Transport Canada 'Category One Medical' – this basically shows that your body is healthy enough to fly. It is strongly recommended that you get into an intro flight program and obtain two hours of small aircraft training to be convinced that flying is the thing for you and what you really want to do before committing to the full program.

Why do you want to be a pilot? It is a lifelong dream as I fell in love with aviation as a child."

Why did you choose Western? "My first choice was Embry Riddle Aeronautical in Florida, but I had to put it out of my mind because I had not written the SATs. I don't believe that the School Boards in Ontario effectively prepare or advise students on the requirements for getting an education in the USA and as such not enough information is given regarding sitting the SATs. As a result, I decided to do engineering or business, but continued to go to university fairs in Toronto. I found out that Western offered the Commercial Aviation Management program – the only program of its kind in Canada. I applied to Western with the view to doing one year and then applying to Embry. This I did and was accepted in the Aviation and Business Administration program with a minor in flight. However, financially my parents could not afford it and so I decided to finish the program at Western."

"I then decided to apply to the Canadian Air Force. I applied to the Regular Officer Training Plan (ROTP) for a pilot's position. The ROTP is the Military's way of training their officers. I was accepted and received a full scholarship from the Canadian Forces. I started with the military June 2005 and I have a twelve-year contract with them as of then. Under this program, I, like all pilots in the military are officers and are commissioned under Queen Elizabeth II who is the Queen of Canada. We do not proceed to "Basic Flight Training" until we receive our commission scroll. This will happen for me in two years time – which equates to the full length of my degree program."

What is the application process for the Military? "It requires four letters of recommendation (none from family), and an aptitude test followed by a two hour interview and a basic medical. Once completed, a date is set for a rigorous physical exam and an eye test, all done by the Military. Once the eye test is approved you are sent to CFB-Trenton for aircrew selection. Once selected you return to DRDC Toronto for an advanced medical, which includes a cognitive reasoning test. All scores are totaled and the top candidates are chosen to go to basic training in St. Jean, Quebec."

Do you speak French? "Just basic, but the military teaches you – one does not have to be fluent upon application but you must spend two summers of basic training learning French. You must be able to give and receive instructions in French."

What are your aspirations as a pilot? I want to be a fighter pilot for the military for at least twelve years, then, I want to work for a major airline (as in Air Canada or American) or a corporate airline (such as NetJets or FlightOptions). I also want to use my entrepreneurial skills to own and invest in various companies with my ultimate goal being able to retire from an airline and own a fractional airline – sort of like a time-share, but for corporate airlines. I also plan to do my Masters degree on a part-time basis in Real Estate Development or Economic Geography, specializing in Real Estate and Property Valuation. I love property and real estate."

How do your parents deal with your career choice? "Dad is one of the proudest fathers around and Mom is truly very proud. They are happy that I decided to pursue my life's passion. I have a very supportive family who has always supported me in whatever I decided to do. They did not allow the cost to be a major issue in achieving my dream. Dad is a Minister of the Gospel and Mom is a Coordinator for a health care company. I have two brothers and one sister. They are proud of me. I believe I have been an influence on my younger brother who now wants to be a pilot as well."

Does the church play any role in your life? "Yes, it does. I am a Born Again Christian. I know my short-comings but I constantly try to get a closer walk with God. Everything I have accomplished was not solely up to me, but rather by the grace and mercies of God. Otherwise, I would have given up long ago – becoming a pilot is hard work and expensive. This grace of God became more apparent to me when I was unable to go to Embry but God gave me a full scholarship here in Canada! I see that as God working it out His own way and reminding me to trust Him. The constant prayers of my parents and the church give me support.

Do you feel any pressure as a pastor's kid and how do you cope being away from home? "Tons of pressure. Sometimes it seems like you live a very public life. This can be good because people are counting on you, but some people are simply expecting bad things of you. However, you learn to focus on your dream and live with the expectations. Being away from home is sometimes difficult but you learn to deal with it. You are able to 'find yourself' and it helps you to become independent. Learning to do your own meals is a reality check!"

*continued on page 14...*



**Camille Hannays-King**

Our history cannot be told in Five minutes, Five days, Five weeks, or Five months.

Seven decades ago, 1926, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson was instrumental in implementing Negro History Week in the United States; the name was changed to Black History Week in 1972, and became Black History Month in 1976.

This event was brought to Toronto in 1950 by the Canadian Negro Women Association and was officially proclaimed by the City of Toronto in 1979. It is now officially recognized throughout Canada following the unanimous adopted motion in the House of Commons. This motion was introduced by the Honourable Jean Augustine with the support of the Ontario Black History Society.

The month of February was selected by Dr. Woodson because it included the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Also Hiram Revels became the first black American elected as senator in February 1870, the NAACP was founded in February 1909 and this month also honours the hundreds of slave rebellions by our ancestors against their enslavement.



# Have Your Say

## Community Church Service

**Sunday February 5, 2006**

On Sunday February 5, 2006 an overwhelming amount of people attended the JCA Community Church Service. Three people were interviewed by the Public Relations Committee; Barbara Hall, Rafaelita Walker, and Julia Plunkett; this is what they had to say:

*"The church service was very inspirational. It has renewed my energy to do the work in the community; just the way our ancestors would have wanted it to be."*

Barbara Hall,  
Chief Commissioner, OHRC



*"The concert was excellent. I was very happy to see that JCA could accommodate so many people. I was overjoyed to see all that positivity flowing from one place, and that the VIP'S in the community was there so see it all."*

Rafaelita Walker,  
JCA Member



*"I was very impressed to see the outpouring of the community. It was very refreshing to see all the young people out in droves and performing to the best of their abilities. The marching band was the highlight. I am hoping that the church service will become an annual event."*

Julia Plunkett,  
Guest



### .... BORN TO FLY *continued*

What would you like to share with black youths? "See flying as an achievable goal. Lose your fear of flying, don't focus on the cost and decide to commit the time to studying. Be sure to choose friends who are similar to you and can be of assistance to you. I don't like negative people."

Are you involved in any mentoring programs? "Not directly, but I am the vice president for Western's Aviation Association. This allows me to invite guest speakers to the program and to

help give direction to the students in the junior years.

Any last words of encouragement for our youths? "In life, don't pursue the job that you think is going to make you the most money; pursue the job that you are passionate about. Something that if taken away from you tomorrow, your life would never be the same. Always put God first. If you try and you don't succeed, don't say you are going to give up, use your failures to allow you to try harder the next time."

— Claudette Cameron Stewart



Spelling Bee of Canada  
Needs **YOUR** Help!

Here's your chance to be a part of the  
North York West Planning Committee

Founded in 1987, *Spelling Bee of Canada*™ is a grassroots educational volunteer organization, with a focus on supporting youth excellence in language arts with an emphasis on reading, spelling and writing. In today's high-tech environment, *Spelling Bee of Canada*™ recognize that it is essential to equip students with the tools that will enable them to comprehend the mass of information available through various media. The proficiency of Spelling is an integral part of childhood education.

We are looking for volunteers to organize the upcoming *North York West Spelling Bee (JCA Chapter)*. We need a team of individuals who have a passion for helping out children between the ages 6-15 years, with experience, knowledge and skill to offer assistance in any of the following areas:

**Marketing   Graphics   Coaching**  
**Fundraising   Community Liaison   Promotions**  
**Special Events Person   Public Relations/Media**

We are also looking for people who can act as officials, such as: Pronouncers, Judges, Resource Person, Word-Keepers.

Please contact us:

**Sylvanus 416-746-5772 or Jhuma 416-746-0072**

Or

E-mail: [info@spellingbeeofcanada.ca](mailto:info@spellingbeeofcanada.ca)

Or [www.spellingbeeofcanada.ca](http://www.spellingbeeofcanada.ca)





# REFLECTION

## JCA Past Events in Pictures



JCA Centre, November 2005

## JCA Calendar of Events

Event	Date
1. JCA Quarterly Meeting	Sunday, February 26, 2006
2. All Committee Meeting	Friday, March 10, 2006
3. Mothers Day Brunch	Sunday, May 14, 2006
4. AGM	Sunday, May 28, 2006
5. Walkathon	June 2006
6. Fathers Day Breakfast	June 2006
7. Annual Picnic	July 2006
8. Independence	August 2006
9. Scholarship Awards	September 2006
10. Health Fair	October 2006

Call JCA Hotline for Event Info 416 - 746-5772, [www.jcassoc.org](http://www.jcassoc.org)